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Montana State
Library literacy
initiative
bulletin



MONTANA STATE LIBRARY LITERACY INITIATIVE BULLETIN

February

Bulletin One

1989

NEW LITERACY PROJECT

Welcome to this, the first of four literacy news bulletins from the Montana State Library Literacy Project.

The project, The Montana State Library Literacy Initiative, began in January, with the selection of Chloe Fessler as Project Coordinator, and will run through September, 1989. The goal of this project is to encourage and nurture grassroots literacy efforts in Montana by establishing literacy resource centers in the six library federation headquarters.

Through the federation network, involving 83 public libraries, the State Library will foster communication between public libraries and other literacy organizations, track literacy activities throughout the state, foster increased awareness of literacy needs in communities without literacy programs, provide guidance to libraries beginning literacy programs, provide technical assistance and training to libraries with established programs, and serve as a clearinghouse and resource center for statewide literacy efforts.

The Literacy Initiative Bulletin will include state and national literacy news, and invites your comments and suggestions.

On December 9, 1988, outgoing Montana Governor, Ted Schwinden, signed Executive Order No. 16-88 to create the Adult Literacy Coordinating Advisory Council, also known as the Joint Public Instruction/Governor's Office Task Force on Adult Literacy. Council members were chosen to represent a broad spectrum of Montana citizens interested in and knowledgeable about literacy.

The following members were appointed to the Council: Senator Chet Blaylock, Montana Senate; Bill Lannan, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education; Claudette Morton, Board of Public Education; Marvin Kildahl, Project V.A.L. and REACH; Representative Richard Nelson, Montana House of Representatives; Bob Hand, Adult Basic Education; Richard Miller, Montana State Library; Laurie Larson, Department of Labor and Industry; Ann Bartel, Chapter One Reading Program; Dee Kober, IBM; Carl Visser, Human Resource Development Council; Rita Martens, Community Education; Robert Lind, Extension Services; Jan Drayer, Gallatin Valley Literacy Council; and the Chair or designee of the Montana Low-Income Coalition.

The Council held its first meeting December 16, 1988. The Council shall present recommendations to the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction by September 1, 1989. The Council is charged to:

- * gather data in order to determine the extent of the adult illiteracy problem in Montana and the population segments to be targeted;
- * determine the social, cultural and economic costs of illiteracy in Montana;
- * define what constitutes adult literacy in Montana, specifically to identify a literacy goal stated in measurable terms;
- * coordinate the various state-wide literacy efforts, in part, by developing an information and referral network;
- * expand public awareness of the need and sources of adult literacy assistance;
- * recommend policies and initiatives to marshal the state's resources to address unserved citizens needing adult assistance.

The first year operation of the Council is funded by a grant from the Office Of Public Instruction. The Council will meet again February 28, 1989.

PLEASE RETURN

AUG 9 1989

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LIBRARIES AND LITERACY

The Montana State Library sees libraries as having a key role to play in combatting illiteracy in Montana.

The State Library sees its involvement in literacy as having three areas of emphasis: to provide leadership and assistance to local libraries as they develop literacy programs; to work with other state agencies to coordinate literacy efforts at the state level; and to be an advocate for the role of libraries in literacy efforts.

Currently the Montana State Library is involved in two literacy grant projects. One is the \$25,000 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title VI grant from the U.S. Office of Education. The second is as the Administering Agency of an Adult Basic Education grant from the Office of Public Instruction.

The LSCA grant provides for a half-time coordinator to work with the Coordinators of

Montana's six public library federations to plan literacy-related workshops for the federations and to select a core collection of literacy materials to be located in each federation headquarters' library. The coordinator will also produce a statewide newsletter.

The grant to the State Library from the Office of Public Instruction provides the support for the Governor-appointed Adult Literacy Coordinating Advisory Council. Richard Miller, State Librarian, serves as a member of the Council.

In addition to being concerned about illiteracy in Montana, the State Library also believes that libraries by their nature have an important role in maintaining or improving the literacy levels of the state's residents of all ages.

—Sheila Cates
Coordinator of
Library Development



QUOTABLE

Literacy is the kind of freedom we must have for all Americans.

—President Bush

We would have to live more than a thousand years to experience first hand what we can experience in a lifetime of reading

—Eugene Rand

tutor training methods, program management training, and provide technical support and consulting services.

LAUBACH LITERACY ACTION (LLA)
1320 Jamesville Avenue, Box 131
Syracuse, New York 13210
Phone: (315) 422-9121

Laubach Literacy Action is Laubach Literacy International's (LLI) volunteer membership organization in the United States. LLI was incorporated in 1955. Nationally, 70,000 trained volunteers working in 750 communities provide literacy training to 100,000 students. Laubach Councils also provide tutoring in English As A Second Language (ESL). LLA publishes Students Speaking Out, a quarterly newsletter of student writings and activities and The Forum: Management Issues for Adult Literacy Programs, a quarterly.

New Readers Press, LLI's publishing division, produces instructional materials, a weekly newspaper and low literate level books written for adults.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, INC. (LVA)

5795 Widewaters Parkway
Syracuse, New York 13214
Phone: (315) 445-8000

LVA, founded in 1962, utilizes trained volunteer tutors to work with adults in basic literacy and ESL in the United States and Canada. Over 30,000 tutors and 33,000 students work through 350 local LVA affiliates. LVA publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Reader and sponsors a national literacy conference each year.

NATIONAL LITERACY EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

There are two major national literacy-education organizations for volunteer-based literacy programs. They have developed

LITERACY PROGRAMS IN MONTANA

There are a variety of programs in Montana directed at increasing adult literacy. The programs fall generally into two broad categories: 1) programs run by or funded through public agencies with paid instructors and, 2) volunteer-based programs. The volunteer-based programs are located in libraries, Adult Basic Education Centers, community colleges, or other supportive non-profit organizations.

Five Montana libraries have volunteer adult literacy programs. Four received funding for their programs this year from the U.S. Department of Education in October, 1988. The programs LVA-Flathead County at Flathead County Free Library and the Bitterroot Public Library LVA Literacy Program at the Bitterroot Public Library are continuations of programs begun in 1987 by Project V.A.L. (Volunteers for Adult Literacy). The programs LVA-Lake County at Polson City Library and the Richland County Adult Literacy Program at Sidney Public Library are new programs in their communities.

In Missoula, the Missoula Public Library and the Missoula community jointly sponsor LVA-Missoula, which is now in its third year of operation. The program was started in 1986 with state LSCA funding as a pilot literacy demonstration project.

Project V.A.L., a joint collaborative effort between the Center for Community Education at Montana State University and VISTA, now in its second year has established adult literacy programs in thirteen Montana

communities: Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Colstrip/Forsyth, Great Falls, Glendive, Havre, Helena, Miles City, Pablo, Popular, and Rocky Boy. V.A.L. has also placed a VISTA Volunteer with LVA-Missoula to assist with the program there.

The Blackfeet Literacy Project in Browning is in its fourth year of operation. The volunteer program is under the direction of the Adult Basic Education department of Blackfeet Community College.



Literacy programs in Montana employing paid rather than volunteer instructors are administered or funded by public agencies.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) Centers provide free instruction in basic academic skills to adults who have not completed high school or who can demonstrate a specific academic need.

Federal, state, and local funds support Montana's 24 ABE centers, which are administered at state level by the Office of Public Instruction. In recent years, the majority of the participants have been interested in completing a high school equivalency such as the General Educational Development (GED) certificate or the External Diploma Program (EDP).

Project Challenge-literacy operates in eight Montana locations: Kalispell, Missoula, Great Falls, Butte, Billings, Helena, Bozeman, and Deer Lodge. Project Challenge provides literacy training and GED preparation to displaced workers.

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds the Summer Youth Employment and Training Programs operated by the Human Resource Development Councils in ten Montana Communities. Participants falling below a 7th grade reading level are referred locally to a remedial program.

Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO) received funding in July, 1988, from the U.S. Department of Labor to establish a Migrant and Seasonal Farm-worker Literacy Program. The two-year program will target low-income individuals who have fourth to sixth grade literacy skills and who have worked on a seasonal basis in agriculture. The REO Literacy Program will operate in Helena, Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Missoula.

A directory of Montana's volunteer programs will appear in the next Bulletin.

NOT SO SIMPLE

Ah, the English language - ever changing and growing, a living language of complex sounds and symbols, often woven into beauty. Yet for many adults who have had limited experience with reading and writing English, though it may be their native language, it can be difficult and confusing.

According to John Culkin in his article "The New Age of Reason" printed in the August, 1981, issue of Science Digest, the current English alphabet is not as simple as ABC. Our spoken language consists of approximately 40 pieces of sound, yet we have only 26 letters to represent those sounds. We have over 200 spellings for those 40 sounds which is five times the number one might think should be required. Culkin points out that "a piano with that degree of effectiveness would have to have 440 keys".

We have fifteen different spellings to represent the long o sound and fifteen spellings to represent the long a sound. Com-

pare the spellings for the long o sound represented in owe, beau, doe, and though. Or how about the spellings for the long a sound represented in maid, gauge, great, and weight? The *ough* combination of letters has seven different pronunciations in our language. "Imagine the efficiency of our number system", Culkin says, "if any digit could randomly take on several other values: 7 (frequently) times 6 (occasionally) equals 42 (more or less)."

Culkin goes on to point out that our written language is confusing because its spelling system is based on the origin and history of a word rather than its sound.

Simple as ABC? Not so for many people who struggle with reading and spelling. Could you explain to someone why the same four letters, *READ*, are pronounced two different ways, depending on when the activity takes place?



The Library Literacy Initiative Bulletin is printed with funds made available through an LSCA, Title VI grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Richard Miller,
State Librarian

Publisher: Sheila Gates, Coordinator of Library Development

Editor: Chloe Fessler

PROCLAMATIONS

Montana Governor Stan Stephens has proclaimed February 19-25 as LITERACY AWARENESS IN MONTANA WEEK. Local literacy groups around the state are planning activities to raise literacy awareness in their communities, to recruit volunteers and students to their programs, and to raise money to continue their services.

The U.S. Library of Congress and The Center For The Book have proclaimed 1989 as THE YEAR OF THE YOUNG READER. The theme of the year is "Give us books, give us wings". Libraries across Montana are planning special events and programs to emphasize the joy of reading to young people and encourage them to become lifelong readers.

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1990 as INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR to "publicize the fact that illiteracy is an urgent and widespread global problem, one that usually goes hand-in-hand with poverty".

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY LITERACY INITIATIVE BULLETIN

May

Bulletin Two

1989

LITERACY COUNCIL ADOPTS LITERACY DEFINITION

As charged by Executive Order 16-88, the Montana State Literacy Council has set forth a working definition of literacy for Montana. The definition reads, "To be literate is to possess and to use skills such as reading with comprehension, writing, speaking and listening, and mathematical computing which enable individuals to solve problems, to meet their own objectives and to function effectively in their environments."

Defining literacy is a difficult task according to Council Chair Marvin Kildahl and Council member Richard Miller, Director of Montana State Library. "So many things needed to be considered," Kildahl said. "What constitutes literacy in today's society changes with each technological advancement; it changes every day. The Council had no desire to create a definition which would become obsolete in a year."

Miller added, "Realistically, we cannot continue to tie literacy to a certain school grade level as has been done in the past because we know there isn't necessarily a relationship between years of schooling and literacy abilities. And we know literacy is not an all-or-none

state; it is a continuum of skills. Its context resides with each individual's circumstances and needs as well as society's needs."

"With that in mind," Kildahl stated, "we chose to define what constitutes literacy. This definition doesn't set any specific criteria or cut-off points demarcating literacy from illiteracy. It doesn't set standards by which to say a certain percentage is or isn't literate."

According to Miller, the Council sees this as a positive step. "Those types of criteria are always limited by the standards of a specific time, place and culture. They cause literacy programs to focus on a narrow aspect of literacy rather than offer the range of programs needed by adults in today's society. Each literacy program can use this definition as a goal by which to set individual quantifiable objectives for their programs."

"According to some studies," Kildahl said, "Montana has one of the highest literacy rates in the nation and we are proud of that. We know, however, that hundreds of Montanans have sought the services offered by literacy programs around the

state this past year which tells us there is a need. The goal of the Council is to get a realistic picture of literacy in Montana and prepare us for the future."

In other business at their April 24th meeting, the Council continued its work of gathering and analyzing data on the extent and costs of illiteracy in Montana and developing recommendations concerning adult literacy for the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction as specified in Executive Order 16-88. The Council will meet again July 24 for its final meeting. Recommendations will be made to Governor Stephens and Superintendent Keenan by September 1, 1989.



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D I R E C T O R Y O F V O L U N T E E R - B A S E D A D U L T

BILLINGS

Name: Literacy Volunteers of America-Billings.
 Coordinator: Trish Burks.
 Phone: 255-3590.
 Area served: Yellowstone County.
 Began: 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 35.
 Current number of students: 17.
 Training method: LVA; 12 hours.
 In-service training: offered.
 Affiliations: ABE; LVA, Inc;
 Project VAL.

BOZEMAN

Name: Gallatin Valley Literacy Council.
 Coordinator: Jan Drayer.
 Phone: 585-1563.
 Area served: Gallatin and Park Counties.
 Began: resumed, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 45.
 Current number of students: 45.
 Training method: LVA; 18 hours and Laubach; 10 hours.
 In-service training: offers two a year; one required.
 Affiliations: ABE and Community Ed; Project VAL.

BROWNING

Name: Blackfeet Literacy.
 Coordinator: Mike Hill.
 Phone: 338-5411.
 Area served: Glacier County.
 Began: September, 1985.
 Offers: basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 12.
 Current number of students: 4.
 Training method: Laubach; 12 hours.
 Affiliations: ABE at Blackfeet Community College.

BUTTE

Name: Butte Literacy Program.
 Coordinator: Karen Shipley.
 Phone: 723-7905.
 Area Served: SilverBow County and close-by areas.
 Began: Fall, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills; GED tutoring.
 Current number of tutors: 27.
 Current number of students: 26.
 Training method: LVA; 21 hours.
 In-service training: three offered each year.
 Affiliations: United Way; LVA, Inc; Project VAL.

COLSTRIP/FORSYTH

Name: Colstrip Literacy Council and Rosebud Literacy Council
 Coordinator: Irene Gribble.
 Phone: 748-3840 or 356-2705.
 Area served: Rosebud County.
 Began: 1988 in Colstrip; 1987 in Forsyth.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 7.
 Current number of students: 5.
 Training: LVA method; 18 hours
 In-service training: two required.
 Affiliations: Colstrip and Forsyth Community Ed; Project VAL.

GLENDIVE

Name: Project VAL.
 Coordinator: Merrily Bobiney.
 Phone: 365-3396.
 Area served: Glendive.
 Began: October, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 3.
 Current number of students: 4.
 Training method: LVA; 18-21 hours.

Affiliations: Dawson Community College; Project Val; LVA, Inc.

GREAT FALLS

Name: REACH for Adult Literacy
 Coordinator: Marvin Kildahl.
 Phone: 791-2140.
 Area served: Great Falls.
 Began: Spring, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 35.
 Current number of students: 35.
 Training method: Combination; two days.
 In-service training: support meetings, 3 or 4 times annually.
 Affiliations: Largent School and Adult Ed Center; Project VAL.

KALISPELL

Name: Literacy Volunteers of America-Flathead County.
 Coordinator: Nance Craft.
 Phone: 756-5687.
 Area served: Flathead County, Big Fork, and Elmo.
 Began: August, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 50.
 Current number of students: 50.
 Training method: LVA; 20 hours.
 In-service: one per year.
 Affiliations: Flathead County Library; LVA, Inc.

HAMILTON

Name: Literacy Volunteers of America-Bitterroot.
 Coordinator: Janet McMillian.
 Phone: 363-1670.
 Area served: Ravalli County.
 Began: August, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills; English as a Second Language.
 Current number of tutors: 36.
 Current number of students: 22.

LITERACY PROGRAMS IN MONTANA

Training method: LVA; 18 hours for reading and 15 hours for ESL.
 In-service: offers two a year.
 Affiliations: Bitterroot Public Library; LVA, Inc.

HAVRE

Name: Project VAL/Adult Ed.
 Coordinator: Jackie Williams.
 Phone: 265-4356.
 Area served: Havre and surrounding area.
 Began: August, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills; English as a Second Language.
 Current number of tutors: 30.
 Current number of students: 20.
 Training method: LVA; 6-12 hours.
 In-service: offers one or two a year.
 Affiliations: Adult Ed; Project VAL.

HELENA

Name: Lewis and Clark Literacy Council.
 Coordinator: Tina Peterson.
 Phone: 442-2571.
 Area served: Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater Counties.
 Began: August, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 23.
 Current number of students: 26.
 Training method: Laubach; 10 hours and LVA; 18 hours.
 In-service: offers two a year.
 Affiliations: Adult Learning Center; Project VAL.

MILES CITY

Name: Literacy Volunteers of America-Miles City.

Coordinator: Penny Huschka.
 Phone: 232-3031, ext 54.
 Area served: Miles City.
 Began: January, 1989.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 14.
 Current number of students: 7.
 Training method: LVA; 16 hours.
 In-service: offers two a year.
 Affiliations: Miles City Community College; Project VAL; LVA, Inc.

MISSOULA

Name: Literacy Volunteers of America-Missoula.
 Coordinators: Chloe Fessler and Brian Berg.
 Phone: 543-4135.
 Area served: Missoula County.
 Began: Fall, 1986.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 55.
 Current number of students: 44.
 Training method: LVA; 21 hours.
 In-service: offers three a year; one required.
 Affiliations: Missoula Public Library; LVA, Inc; Project VAL.

PABLO

Name: Project VAL.
 Coordinator: Christine Good.
 Phone: 675-4800, ext 188.
 Area served: Lake County in cooperation with LVA-Lake County.
 Began: October, 1987.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 15.
 Current number of students: 6.
 Training method: LVA; 18 hours.
 In-service: offers two or three a year.
 Affiliations: Salish-Kootenai Community College; LVA-Lake County, Project VAL.

POLSON

Name: Literacy Volunteers of America-Lake County.
 Coordinator: Cindy Willis.
 Phone: 883-4003.
 Area served: Lake County in cooperation with Project VAL in Pablo.
 Began: October, 1988.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 15.
 Current number of students: 10.
 Training method: LVA; 18 hours.
 In-service: Two a year required.
 Affiliations: Polson City Library; LVA, Inc; Pablo VAL.

ROCKY BOY

Name: Rocky Boy VAL Project.
 Coordinator: Irwin Littlesun.
 Phone: 395-4691.
 Area served: Rocky Boy area.
 Began: resumed, Jan, 1989.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 11.
 Current number of students: 4.
 Training method: Laubach and LVA; 18 hours.
 In-service: available.
 Affiliations: Stone Child College; Project VAL.

SIDNEY

Name: Richland County Adult Literacy Project.
 Coordinator: Nance Fields.
 Phone: 482-7242.
 Area served: Richland County.
 Began: October, 1989.
 Offers: Basic literacy skills.
 Current number of tutors: 9.
 Current number of students: 9.
 Training method: LVA; 15 hours.
 In-service: offers two a year.
 Affiliations: Sidney Public Library.

LITERACY NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Recent literacy tutor trainings have taken place in **Butte**, **Colstrip**, **Forsyth**, **Hamilton**, **Kalispell**, **Missoula**, **Pablo**, **Polson**, **Rocky Boy**, **Ronan**, **Sidney**, and **St. Ignatius**.

The **LVA-Billings** literacy program was the subject of a three-quarter page feature article in the Sunday, March 5th **Billings Gazette**. Much of the article focused on 30-year-old student, Rose. Also interviewed were Jim Reno, director of **Billings Adult Education**, Trish Burks, coordinator of **LVA-Billings**, and Gloria Gregg, director of **Project VAL** in Montana and the **Center for Community Education** at **Montana State University**.

The **LVA Butte Literacy Program**'s annual Luncheon Card Party was well attended and was a successful fundraiser. Fifteen enthusiastic people attended their GED Tea. In February, Coordinator Karen Shipley was interviewed on TV and radio and

EllaMae Cromer, a former student, was interviewed on TV. The literacy program was featured in two stories in the Sunday, February 19th **Montana Standard**.

LVA-Flathead County has recently received full affiliate status with **LVA, Inc.** In February, during "Literacy Awareness In Montana Week", **LVA-FC** students and tutors wrote letters to Governor Stephens. Two particularly moving letters from a student and his tutor were printed in the **Whitefish Pilot**. In March, **LVA-Flathead County** held their annual meeting and elected new officers to the Board of Directors.

LVA-Lake County has received their provisional status with **LVA, Inc.** In April they held an in-service training for tutors on writing and spelling. During Library Week, they had literacy displays in the **Polson City Library**, held showings of the movie, "Bluffing It", and were

on hand to help celebrate the dedication of the new library building in **Polson**.

LVA-Lake County and Project VAL at Salish-Kootenai Community College in **Pablo** selected the winning logo design in their jointly sponsored logo contest. The winning design, chosen from twenty entries, was created by **Maria Flemming**. **Maria** is a student at **Salish-Kootenai Community College**. The logo will be used on posters, flyers, and stationery by both literacy programs.

The **Ronan Pioneer and Flathead Courier** ran a picture of tutors and council members from the **Pablo** and **Polson** programs attending an in-service training during "Literacy Awareness Week".

Students, **Bob Williams** and "**Brad**", and tutors, **Tom Foggin** and **Paul Wisniewski**, from **LVA-Missoula** were featured in TV new stories on literacy in **Missoula**.

The Library Literacy Initiative Bulletin is printed with funds made available through an **LSCA**, Title VI grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Richard Miller,
State Librarian

Publisher: **Sheila Cates**, Coordinator of Library Development

Editor: **Chloe Fessler**

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY LITERACY INITIATIVE BULLETIN

July

Bulletin Three

1989

LITERACY BOARDS MEET FOR TRAINING

Twenty-six board members from fourteen literacy programs from around the state met in Bozeman June 2 and 3 for a one and one-half day workshop in Literacy Board Development.

The workshop was designed to introduce participants to the role and purpose for a board of directors and to suggest ways to strengthen existing boards.

Workshop sessions included: the responsibilities of a board of directors, the individual member's role on the board, assessment of the current board and program, orientation to the board, goal-setting, long-range planning and resource develop-

ment, fostering a common mission, and differentiating between board and staff functions.

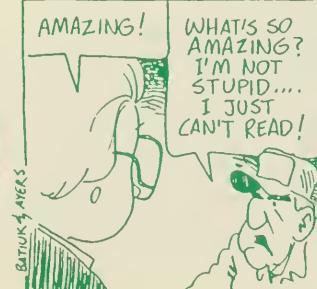
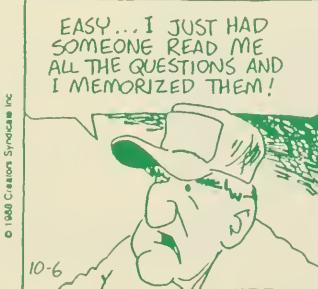
Participants were directed to return to their programs and share the training with their fellow board members. A follow-up session will be held in the fall, 1989.

At the close of the intensive day and a half workshop, participants reported that they had gained new insights into their programs as well as had acquired a substantial amount of new knowledge concerning the functioning of a board of directors. Participants also expressed appreciation for the oppor-

tunity to meet board members from other literacy programs from around the state. It was agreed that the formal and informal sharing of information and observations was an important element of the workshop.

The workshop was arranged and coordinated by Dr. Gloria Gregg and her staff at the Center for Community Education at Montana State University and was funded by a grant from the U.S. West Foundation. The instruction was conducted by Patricia Felix, a consultant from Literacy Volunteers of America and the Director of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy.

CRANKSHAFT



By Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers

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PI FASE RETURN

NEW FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE FAMILY LITERACY

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy has recently been established to promote family literacy. The mission of the Foundation is to establish literacy as a value in every family in America; to break the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy; and to support the development of family literacy programs.

To address that mission, the foundation announced it will support a number of activities including:

- awarding grants to establish intergenerational dimensions in existing successful literacy programs;
- providing seed money for community planning of family literacy activities;
- supporting training for volunteers and teachers;
- recognizing and honoring volunteers, teachers, and

students in successful programs;

- providing help to those interested in establishing family literacy efforts;
- publishing a book to highlight successful family literacy programs.

An eight-member volunteer advisory committee will steer the activities of the foundation with Barbara Bush serving as the Honorary Chair. The Working Chairperson of the committee is Dr. Joan Abrahamson, a MacArthur Fellow and the President of the Jefferson Institute. The Executive Director is Betina Somerfield, President of Simon and Schuster Workplace Resources and former Special Advisor in Adult Literacy at the U.S. Department of Education. The Community Foundation of Greater Washington will serve as the foundation's fiscal and admini-

strative agent.

Dr. Abrahamson announced that the foundation will operate in the private sector "at arm's length from Mrs. Bush's official capacity as First Lady. Mrs. Bush's activities will not include raising or expending funds". Program and funding decisions will be made by the advisory committee.

The foundation currently is in the process of establishing criteria and guidelines for application. Funding is expected to begin in 1990.

An Information Package can be obtained by writing or calling: The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, 1002 Wisconsin Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20007, (202) 338-2006. You may request to be put on the mailing list to receive future announcements and application guidelines.

"Parents play roles of inestimable importance in laying the foundation for learning to read...A parent is a child's first tutor in unraveling the fascinating puzzle of written language."

- Becoming a Nation of Readers, 1985

"The best way for parents to help their children become better readers is to read to them - even when they are very young. Children benefit most from reading aloud when they discuss stories, learn to identify letters and words, and talk about the meaning of words."

- What Works: Research About Teaching and Learning, U.S. Department of Education, 1987

"In the absence of comprehensive efforts to bolster the literacy proficiencies of young parents (with limited literacy skills), their children will be at a serious disadvantage in school and in the future labor markets of the nation."

- Sudden Danger, Educational Testing Service, 1987

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

HONORED

Dr. Gloria A. Gregg, Director of the Community Education Center at Montana State University has been named "The 1988 Educator of the Year" by the Montana Association for Adult and Community Education. Gregg was honored for her "contributions and hard work" in behalf of adult and community education in Montana and the region.

Dr. Gregg, in addition to being the Director of the Community Education Center at MSU, is on the National Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.; is the Director of the VISTA literacy project in Montana, Volunteers For Adult Literacy; and is a member of the Resource Staff for the Montana State Adult Literacy Council.

HELENA

The Lewis and Clark Literacy Council has recently received provisional status with Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.

MISSOULA

LVA-Missoula has been recently mentioned in two national literacy publications. The Written Word, the newsletter from the national Contact Center, reported on LVA-M's activities during Literacy Awareness Week and their Recycle-for-Literacy fundraising idea. RAP, the newsletter from the LVA Field Services Committee, featured LVA-M's recycling idea in their July issue.

SIDNEY

In May the Richland County Adult Literacy Program held a potluck dinner and in-service training for tutors, conducted a tutor training workshop for new volunteers, and staffed a booth at Health Fair '89. In June they conducted their Give-a-Goat-for-Literacy Campaign. For a \$5 donation, supporters could request that a goat be delivered to friends for one hour. The Literacy Program would move the goat sooner for another donation.



Courtesy of LVA-Bitterroot

RESOURCES

The Orton Dyslexia Society has several videos, audiotapes, and pamphlets on the subject of dyslexia. To receive a list of the videos, including a brief description, length and format, send a self-addressed envelope to Videos, the Orton Dyslexia Society, 724 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21204.

Two new excellent resources for information on Workplace Literacy are now available. Workplace Basics: The Skills Employers Want is published by the American Society for Training & Development. Copies can be obtained from A S T & D, 1630 Duke Street, Box 1443, Alexandria, VA 22313; (703) 683-8100. The first copy is free, thereafter, \$5.

Workplace Literacy: Targeting the Future, addresses the problems of illiteracy as an issue of special concern to small business and is available free from: Office of Advocacy, Small Business Administration, 1725 Eye St. NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC 20416; (202)634-6115.

Learning Behind Bars: Selected Educational Programs from Juvenile, Jail and Prison Facilities profiles some of the country's best education and basic skills programs in correctional settings. Prepared by the Correctional Education Association and Project Plus with Gannett Foundation funding. For a complimentary copy, write: PLUS/WQED, 4802 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

DATES

September

The month of September is National Library Card Sign-up Month.

September 8 is International Literacy Day.

On September 14, ABC News will air a news special on the key problems facing American youth today. Illiteracy will be discussed as one of the six problems identified as adversely affecting teens.

October

October 18 is the day for Montana's state-wide Literacy Conference.

1990

The year 1990 has been designated as International Literacy Year.

GOOD NEWS

The BCEL (Business Council for Effective Literacy) newsletter reports that with regard to literacy activity, and especially workplace literacy, the thoughtful recommendations of the Southport Institute's recent report, JUMP START, are having considerable impact on the Washington scene. The JUMP START report, which examined the federal government's role in promoting adult literacy in the U.S., made extensive recommendations for action.

BCEL reports that several literacy bills are currently being introduced in the Congress and that several business groups are scheduling meetings in Washington over the next few months to convey to the Administration and the Congress the business community's strong interest and concern for further action on this issue.



LITERACY CONFERENCE

The Montana State Adult Literacy Council is planning a state-wide Literacy Conference for Wednesday, October 18.

The Conference, which has as its theme "Literacy for the 21st Century - For Everyone, All Ages", will be held in Bozeman and will be open to everyone interested in literacy in Montana.

Susan Foster, co-author of Enhancing Adult Literacy, A Policy Guide, is the keynote speaker. Ms. Foster's expertise is in working with state policy-makers as they develop strategies for improving literacy in their states.

The Montana State Adult Literacy Council will present its final report and recommendations at the Conference. A variety of workshops on various aspects of literacy will be offered as well.

For more information, call Chloe at 543-4135.

The Library Literacy Initiative Bulletin is printed with funds made available through an LSCA, Title VI grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Richard Miller,
State Librarian

Publisher: Sheila
Cates, Coordinator of
Library Development

Editor: Chloe Feesler

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ANA STATE LIBRARY

LITERACY INITIATIVE BULLETIN



JUNE

NUMBER ONE

1993

Governor Stan Stephens designated Montana State Library as Montana's Literacy Resource Center. The services and activities proposed for the first year have been planned by the Montana State Library (MSL) and the Center for Community-School Development (CCSD) at Montana State University.

The activities of the State Literacy Resource Center are:

To determine a computer network which can be utilized for the purpose of sharing information, data, and research from the National Institute for Adult Literacy, MSL, and CCSD, other state or regional resource centers, and local programs.

To implement and evaluate one three hour training/in service education program for at least 25 literacy providers using an interactive video.

To enhance the state-wide literacy conference which is planned as part of the MSL's LSCA Title VI grant, by developing a promotional brochure, identifying speakers, and offer travel stipends.

To develop an awareness of the existence of the State Literacy Resource Center and the services provided by it.

To develop a marketing plan which will serve as a guide for promotional activities for all literacy programs and services in Montana.

To facilitate one Literacy Volunteers of America tutor and directors training workshop for at least 20 individuals.

The Montana State Literacy Resource Center is intended to enhance and strengthen existing activities and services, and to expand into new ones.

Sheila Cates, Library Development Coordinator, MSL is the Project Director, Gaye R. Walter was hired as a part-time Project Coordinator.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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LITERACY GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Barbara Humes, Program Officer for the Library Literacy Program, U.S. Department of Education, will visit literacy centers in Butte, Hamilton, Helena, Box Elder and Lewistown. She will arrive in Butte July 12, and end her visit in Lewistown. July 16 she will conduct a grant writing workshop in Lewistown. The workshop will be held at the Yogo Inn, beginning at 9:30 and ending at 4:30. Cost for the luncheon is \$8.00. To make reservations and for further information contact Gaye Walter, State Library, 444-5351. Thanks to Sheila Cates and Sharon Stead for their efforts to make this possible.

LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES

The Library of Congress-Center For the Book 1993-94 National Reading Theme is LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES; This theme is so appropriate for all of us. As we look at our lives many of us remember ways our libraries have helped us accomplish the tasks, or provide us with a skill or recreational reading. Some come to libraries as children and grow up feeling comfortable within the walls, others somehow find their way and must learn to feel comfortable. Whatever the reason for finding the way to the library, your life was changed.

Part of the legacy of learning to read is to have the marvelous adventures and information available to you. I would urge each of you to explore, ask for help, but most of all become comfortable using your library. They are after all, there for you.

I would like to devote this column in the newsletter to any comments, stories, poetry about how you feel that a library changed your life. We will print as space allows.

Submit all articles to Gaye R. Walter, Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave. Helena, MT 59601. Be sure to include your name and city, you may remain anonymous if you wish.

FAMILY READING CORNER

Family literacy programs are attempts to help improve the reading skills of adults. But more important, these efforts are targeted at the prevention of illiteracy, as it is frequently passed on from one generation to another. Public libraries have a long history of helping those who wish further education. The library has as its mission to create lifelong learners. Programs that help prevent illiteracy contribute to eradication of the problem, rather than trying to fix it after the fact. Family literacy programs which help adults learn to read children's materials, to tell stories, to encourage children to use books, and to bring more reading material into the home, enhance an adult's role as the first teacher and as a role model for preschool children.

For the adult new reader, family literacy programs build on one of the key reasons for adults learning to read -- to help their children. Family literacy efforts help to increase the adults skills, while at the same time modeling reading-related behavior for the whole family.

SAMPLE TITLES FOR USE IN FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Battaglia, ANIMAL SOUNDS
Berenstain, OLD HAT, NEW HAT
Brown, GOODNIGHT MOON
Eastman, ARE YOU MY MOTHER?
Eastman, GO, DOG, GO!
Galdone, THE THREE BEARS
Ginsburg, CHICK AND DUCKLING
Hill, WHERE'S SPOT?
Martin, BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR
Mayer, ALL BY MYSELF
Mayer, JUST GRANDPA AND ME
O'Connor, THE TEENY TINY WOMAN
Schade, THE NOISY COUNTING BOOK
Ziefert, NICKY'S NOISY NIGHT



ADULT LITERACY COUNCIL

Members of the Adult Literacy Council were appointed following the criteria established by the LSCA Title VI Grant. Several members of the Council had served on the State Literacy Task Force.

The Council met April 26, 1993, at MSL. Don Berryman was selected to Chair the group, with Dorothy Still Smoking selected as Vice-Chair. Gaye Walter, MSL will serve as Secretary.

Council Members are:

Don Berryman, Butte, LVA Board Member
Jean Dahlman, Forsyth, LVA-Rosebud
Rod Davidson, Restaurant Management
 Company, Billings
Chloe Fessler, LVA, Missoula
Dr. Gloria Gregg, CCSD, MSU
Betty Hill, Office of the Lt. Governor
Jeannine Johnson, Student, Helena
Laurie Lamson, Job Training, Helena

Rich Petaja, Dept of Corrections, Helena
Dr. Robert Ruthemeyer, OPI, Helena
Dixie Stark, LVA- Bitterroot, Hamilton
Dorothy Still Smoking, Blackfeet Tribe
 Head Start
Richard T. Miller, Jr., Montana State Librarian
Sheila Cates, Coordinator Library
 Development, MSL
Gaye R. Walter, Librarian for Special
 Populations, MSL

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for July 9, 1993 at 10:00 at the Montana State Library. The meetings are open to the public.

The Library Literacy Initiative Bulletin is printed with funds made available through an LSCA, Title VI grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

State Librarian: Richard T. Miller, Jr.
Project Director: Sheila Cates, Coordinator of Library Development
Project Coordinator: Gaye Walter, Library Development

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LITERACY INITIATIVE BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER

NUMBER TWO

1993

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CELEBRATE LITERACY

A statewide literacy conference, entitled "Celebrate Literacy" will take place in Helena Oct. 15, 16, 1993. The conference will be at the Park Plaza Hotel beginning with a banquet on Oct. 15. A "fun night" has been scheduled, with a keynote speaker and entertainment. Saturday will convene with an opening session, and a roll call of literacy centers. Bring banners, signs, costumes, anything fun to let the conference attendees know your center is represented. Nine sessions are scheduled throughout the day, there will be something of interest to you. A luncheon will honor the learners. The Governor's Award For Excellence to be announced at the conference, will be presented to a literacy center at the closing session. Brochures and registration information will be sent to each literacy center and public library in September.

Just prior to the conference the following training session will be available:
Oct. 13-14 Chloe Fessler will be training LVA volunteers on the use of the newly revised Basic Literacy Tutor Training. On Oct. 15, Katie Burdick, will be conducting a session for non-profit boards entitled, BOARD LITERACY: HOW TO READ AN ORGANIZATION.

CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

You are responsible for your own transportation and lodging. To make room reservations call the Park Plaza Hotel 443-2200. To receive conference rates mention that you are attending the literacy conference.

The Celebrate Literacy Conference is sponsored by the State Literacy Resource Center, Montana State Library. Funds are provided with monies received from a Library Services and Construction Act, Title VI grant, U.S. Dept. of Education.

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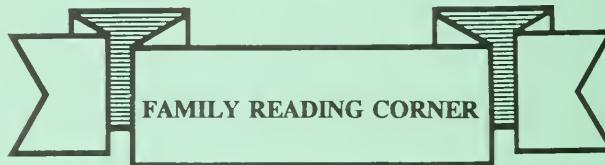
SUCCESS STORY; ESL STUDENTS IN ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Literacy Volunteers of Flathead County and nine English as a Second Language (ESL) Students had a very exciting day in July. After working diligently to master the political and historical information required to pass the U. S. Citizenship Exam -- in a special class of LVA tutors and learners -- nine ESL adult students went to Missoula's Federal Building to take the big test.

On September 3rd LVA'S new American Citizens were sworn in at the Federal Building in Missoula. Proud families and tutors witnessed this most special event.

The ESL students who took this exam are all fine people. We welcome them as citizens of the United States and are honored they have chosen to be full participants in our great nation-community.

Submitted by Lucy Smith, Program Coordinator/ESL Program LVA-Flathead County



MADE TO SHARE; A SELECTED LIST OF SUREFIRE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

ANANSI AND THE MOSS COVERED ROCK retold by Eric Kimmel, Holiday, 1988

ANANSI THE SPIDER retold by Gerald McDermott, Holt, 1972

ANNO'S FACES by Mitsumasa Anno, Philomel, 1989

BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE? by Bill Martin, Holt, 1967

DEEP IN THE FOREST by Brinton Turkle, Dutton, 1978

ED EMBERLEY'S GREAT THUMBNPRINT DRAWING BOOK by Ed Emberley, Little, 1977

HUNDRED PENNY BOX by Sharon Bell Mathis, Viking, 1975

LITTLE GIRL AND THE GUNNIWOLF by Wilhemina Harper, Dutton, 1967

MYSTERIES OF HARRIS BURDICK by Chris Van Allsburg, Houghton, 1984

PAPER AIRPLANE BOOK by Seymour Simon, Puffin, 1976

SPOT'S BABY SISTER by Eric Hill, Putnam, 1989

STORIES JULIAN TELLS by Ann Cameron, Knopf, 1981

TEENY - TINY WOMAN retold by Paul Galdone, Clarion, 1984

THE TURNIP retold by Janina Domanska, Macmillan, 1969

VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR by Eric Carle, Philomel, 1983

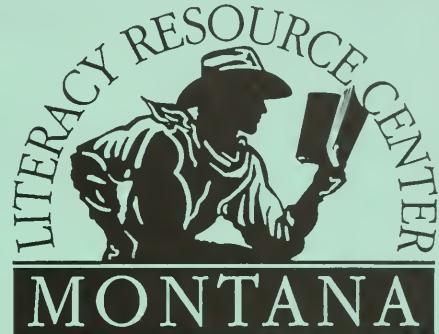
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak, Harper, 1963

THESE TITLES ARE AVAILABLE IN MOST PUBLIC LIBRARIES.
ASK THE LIBRARIANS FOR THESE AND OTHER TITLES TO SHARE.

NEWS BITS

Billy F. Jameson's story DADS CRY TOO was published by New Writers Voices . The story appears in the book SPENDING TIME TOGETHER. The book is an anthology of essays and poems by new writers. Billy is a student at LVA-Bitterroot.

Amy Glasscock has designed the logo for the State Literacy Resource Center, and the conference materials. The logo will appear on all publications and releases from the center. Hopefully it will become identifiable with literacy in the state of Montana.



Gaye Walter, Librarian for Special Populations attended a Family Literacy Pre- conference at the American Library Association in New Orleans. The conference was sponsored by the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services. The presenters were experts in the field of family literacy and shared their successes with the group. A workshop of particular interest was "Get 'Em and Keep 'Em presented by Dr. Carole Talan, California State Library. Carole shared her enthusiasm and ideas for recruitment and retention of families in library literacy programs. If you would like information or handouts from this presentation call Gaye at 444-5351

Gaye will participate in the second conference on the State Literacy Resource Centers (SLRC) Program on September 23 - 24 in Arlington Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to assist SLRC administrators in improving the design and operation of their centers. Also, training will be conducted on the new Bulletin Board System that will provide electronic linkages to the centers.

STATE LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER LAUNCHES MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Rod Davidson, Chair of the SLRC Marketing Committee has contracted with the Northern Rodeo Association athletes to appear in newspaper ads throughout the state. The twelve cowboys and cowgirls will promote the upcoming conference and the 800#. Rod is working with these athletes to arrange T.V. and radio spots. Watch for these ads in your local newspaper.

LSCA WORKSHOP

On July 16, 1993 Mrs. Barbara Humes, Grants Program Officer for the Library Literacy Program, United States Department of Education, conducted a grant writing workshop in Lewistown, Montana. Sharon Stead, Director of L.E.A.R.N., and Sheila Cates, Montana State Library, spent many months corresponding with Barbara to make it possible; it was quite an honor for the state of Montana as Barbara leaves Washington D.C. for only two scheduled trips a year. Barbara travelled to Butte, Hamilton, Helena, and Box Elder for on-site visits prior to her arrival in Lewistown. Approximately thirty people attended the workshop representing a cross section of state government and the private sector. The response was positive in all regards! Gaye Walter from the State Library was responsible for librarians attending the work shop to receive continuing education credits, and her attendance promoted literacy programs throughout the state. This combined support makes Montana one of the leaders in literacy in the nation.

Submitted by: Sharon Stead, Director, L.E.A.R.N. Lewistown.

LITERACY HOTLINE

Calls are received daily on the 1-800-338-5087 hotline. This 800 line is answered at the Information Resources desk at the State Library. The callers questions are answered at this desk or referred to Gaye Walter, if the caller requests more information.

NATIONAL ADULT LITERACY CONGRESS

Montana will be represented at the National Adult Literacy Congress by Marilou Helman, and Dixie Stark. Marilou and Dixie will share their experiences at the State Literacy Conference in Helena, October 16.

The Library Literacy Initiative Bulletin is printed with funds made available through an LSCA, Title VI grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

State Librarian: Richard T. Miller, Jr.
Project Director: Darlene Staffeldt, Coordinator of Library Development
Project Coordinator: Gaye R. Walter, Library Development

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